

Submitted to:

The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, P.C., M.P.

and

The Honourable John Turner, M.P.

and

The Honourable John Munro

by

The New Feminist

on behalf of

Canadian women who support permissive abortion.

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We, the above named, recommend: ?

1. A simplified and less degrading form of abortion for Canadian women.
2. Removal of abortion from the Criminal Code.
3. Permissive abortion on demand, by a pregnant women, married or unmarried.
4. That said permissive abortion be a private matter between doctor and/or qualified person and patient only.
5. That therapeutic abortion committees in hospitals be abolished.
6. That doctors and/or qualified persons not wishing to perform abortions be freely dismissed from the case by his or her own wish with no limitations. on either doctor and/or qualified person or patient.
7. That all such applications for abortions be privileged information between said doctor and/or qualified person and patient.
8. That all permissive abortions be covered by all health and hospital insurance companies.
9. That permissive abortions be allowed to be performed in doctor's and/or qualified person's offices, if same office is of suitable condition and/or hospital or nursing home facilities are available to both doctor and/or qualified person and patient.
10. That choice of doctor and/or qualified person is solely within the rights of the patient.



11. That the Government of Canada grant appropriate sums of money for a continuing research program into birth control and abortion.
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Though we would endorse many submissions already presented by other women, we wish to stress, in particular, the needs of Canadian women who endorse permissive abortion.

According to the existing Criminal Code Canadian women who desire an abortion must submit to:

- (a) an examination by doctor;
- (b) have file reviewed by Hospital Therapeutic Abortion Committee, who, in the majority of cases, is made up of business men with no medical background;
- (c) or must submit to examination by two psychiatrists and if findings certify that said woman would suffer emotional and mental damage by having said baby recommends an abortion;
- (d) must wait for a hospital bed (which may be too late as said baby may then be alive under medical definition of "live").

We request:

- (a) that a simplified form of operation be instituted;
- (b) that the Act be removed from the Criminal Code;
- (c) that the medical profession of Canada be instructed and notified that such change has been made.

We request consideration as some women are bread winners of some families. This bread winner faces an additional expense because of such pregnancy. We feel that the role of a woman is difficult enough and in order to make full contribution as a partner in marriage, she should at least have the same rights as her partner.

This brief is being presented by married and unmarried women. It does not represent any one political group or any one religious group. But rather, by women of different, and in some cases, of no political group, and of no organized faith.

Many Canadian women bear children only because there is no legal escape for them. They carry these unwanted children, give birth, knowing that they will either have to give up their children for adoption, or raise them to a life of poverty. Since it is a woman's body who is host to these babies, we ask for relief of such women who are put into a degrading position due to the laws of Canada. We, in no way, wish to take away the rights of women who wish to bear and raise children, but only to make life easier for Canadian women who do not wish to give birth to an unwanted pregnancy.

Also, the role of an unmarried mother in Canadian society is one that she must bear alone, although the said pregnancy was not arrived at alone. There are no homes for unmarried fathers, neither do their bodies have to carry the scars of pregnancy, or



sign their rights away. It is the Canadian woman, if she is unmarried, who must carry the full burden of giving birth outside of marriage. Surely then she must be given the right to decide whether or not she wants to carry and give birth to said child.

It is recognized that many of the same symptoms, characteristics and frustrations which are acknowledged by the unmarried mother, are also felt by the married mother.

We appreciate the opportunity afforded by this office to bring to the attention of the Canadian Government, and through them to all Canadians, certain problems faced by the women of Canada who are pregnant, or who may become pregnant, and who may wish to terminate said pregnancies.

Respectfully submitted,

The New Feminist

May 8, 1970

